SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW TEACHERS TO USE PURCHASING CARDS WHEN PURCHASING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND OTHER RELATED CURRICULUM SUPPORT SUPPLIES.

WHEREAS, a shortage of school supplies for the classroom and funds to purchase the supplies has been an ongoing problem for many years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to investing in school facilities, other important needs such as textbooks, computers, equipment, supplies, and necessary services are not funded adequately; and

WHEREAS, teachers often use their personal resources to purchase much-needed classroom and instructional supplies; and

WHEREAS, the State Procurement Office manages the purchasing card program, which is designed to streamline the State and county government's small purchase and payment process; and

WHEREAS, the purchasing card program replaces the laborious and costly purchase order system by allowing employees to charge small purchases from vendors using a purchasing card without having to prepare a purchase order; and

WHEREAS, currently, only principals and a few other specified individuals are authorized to use purchasing cards; and

WHEREAS, allowing teachers, by request, to use purchasing cards will streamline the process by which teachers can purchase necessary supplies and other related curriculum support supplies and eliminate the time required to obtain a product and the time lag for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,

that the Department of Education is requested to allow teachers to use purchasing cards or declining balance purchasing cards when purchasing school supplies and other related curriculum support supplies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to develop policies and procedures related to the use of purchasing cards or declining balance purchasing cards by teachers for the purpose of purchasing school supplies and other related curriculum support supplies, as deemed appropriate by the school's academic and financial plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education.